

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 057606

46

ORIGIN PM-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 EB-11 COME-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01 AID-20 IGA-02

MC-02 /122 R

DRAFTED BY PM/SAS-JLCLUNAN:CS

APPROVED BY PM/SAS - WILLIAM H. LEWIS

DOD/DSAA - CAPT. CANTACUZENE (INFORMED)

EA/RA - CAPT. WARREN

EA/TB - MR. DEXTER

H - MR. SCHNEE (SUBS)

L/PM - MR. MICHEL (SUBS)

----- 055712

R 221456Z MAR 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 057606

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, TH, US

SUBJECT: HTMS PHRAPINKLAO

REFS: (A) STATE 190667, 191451 OCT. 72; (B) BANGKOK 3742;

(C) BANGKOK 2051; (D) SECDEF 082101Z JAN 74; (E) FIR-

311/00154/74, 9 JAN 74

1. ON FEBRUARY 11, 1974, IN RESPONSE TO A DOD REQUEST
DATED JAN. 25, DEPT. APPROVED THE TRANSFER OF HTMS
PHRAPINKLAO TO THE RTG AS A SALE RATHER THAN A NO COST
GIFT. REASONS FOR DOING SO WERE:

A. USG POLICY IS TO TRANSFER SURPLUS SHIPS BY SALE
.....(REF A).

B. EXECUTIVE BRANCH HAS WORKING AGREEMENT WITH CONGRESS
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PAGE 02 STATE 057606

TO NOTIFY IN ADVANCE OF ALL PROPOSED SHIP TRANSFERS

BY NAME AND METHOD.

C. EXECUTIVE BRANCH IS REQUIRED BY LAW TO REPORT TRANSFER OF MAJOR EDA ITEMS, SUCH AS DESTROYERS ESCORTS, TO CONGRESS.

D. IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO JUSTIFY A NO COST TRANSFER TO THE CONGRESS IN THE CONTEXT OF THE RECORD THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH HAS MADE IN HEARINGS BEFORE CONGRESS EMPHASIZING TRANSFERS BY SALE, PARTICULARLY SINCE THE

COST OF THE SHIP REPRESENTS LESS THAN ONE-FIFTH OF ONE PERCENT OF RTN FY 74 BUDGET (REF E).

E. POORER COUNTRIES THAN THAILAND WITH SIMILAR SHIP LEASES EXPIRING IN FY 75 WILL JUSTIFIABLY EXPECT SIMILAR CONSIDERATION, FURTHER ERODING SHIP SALE POLICY.

F. A GIFT OF HTMS PHRAPINKLAO COULD HAVE FAR REACHING EFFECTS ON LEGISLATION NOW PENDING BEFORE CONGRESS. BOTH THE HOUSE AND THE SENATE HAVE PASSED LEGISLATION IMPOSING STATUTORY VESSEL TRANSFER PROCEDURES. MAKING THIS TRANSFER AS A GIFT MAY WELL DETRACT FROM THE LIKELIHOOD OF A FAVORABLE OUTCOME IN ANY HOUSE-SENATE CONFERENCE ON THE LEGISLATION.

2. REGRET THAT INFORMATION CONTAINED REFERENCE C WAS INTERPRETED AS AUTHORIZATION TO OFFER HTMS PHRAPINKLAO TO RTG AS GIFT. BELIEVE, HOWEVER, THE THAI WILL UNDERSTAND THE POLICY REASONS AND CONGRESSIONAL CONCERNS WHICH REQUIRE OUR MAKING OUR FORMAL OFFER AS A SALE, RATHER THAN A GIFT.

3. IF THAI CHOOSE NOT TO PURCHASE, IT IS NOT NECESSARY TO SCRAP IN CONUS. USG WOULD MORE LIKELY SELL PHRAPINKLAO FOR SCRAP ON LOCAL MARKET IN THAILAND OR NEARBY COUNTRY WHERE SALE WOULD BE PERMITTED.

4. YOUR RECOMMENDATION REGARDING THE LST EX-STONE
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PAGE 03 STATE 057606

COUNTRY (REF C) HAS BEEN APPROVED. KISSINGER

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NNN

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HTMS, NAVAL SHIPS, SURPLUS MILITARY EQUIPMENT SALES
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